

*Town of Hampton*



*Department of Resources and  
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission  
100 Winnacunnet Road  
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842  
Hampton Town Hall-Selectmen Meeting Room  
7:00 PM**

**May 24, 2012**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton  
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission  
Bob Preston- Hampton Chamber of Commerce  
Rick Griffin, Town Selectmen  
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation  
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District  
Deputy Richard Sawyer, Citizen at Large  
Michael Housman, Operations Supervisor, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Recreation)

ABSENT: Geannina Guzman-Scanlan--Hampton Beach Village District

**Other:** Laurie Olivier- Secretary  
James Steffen – Town Planner

**1. Introduction of Commissioners**

Mr. Nyhan introduced the Commissioners.

**2. Public Comment Session – related to agenda items**

Mr. Victor DeMarco appeared. He lives at 11 Milbern Avenue. He is employed from the Town and parking is on the agenda. He discussed handicap parking that has occurred since the renovation. On the State's South lot (Chamber-south), there are only eight handicap spots available. From the Pavillion to the Ashworth, there are four. From Ashworth corner to bath house to High Street, there are two handicap spots that have designated spots. At the bathhouse there are two more. The State tells them to go down to the Town lot and park. They have 30 to 50 handicapped people coming in with no

charge. He thought there would be at least a percentage of parking spaces designated for handicapped people, at no cost. He checked out prepaid parking machines as well. Machines offer no change. There's so much to read that people are putting in \$20 to spend four hours at the beach and they want change and are not getting change. The "no change" wording is so small it's hard to read.

The State is now charging from October 1<sup>st</sup> until April 30<sup>th</sup> a \$1 an hour for parking and then it's up to \$2 an hour for parking. They are collecting now 12 months a year. He does not believe people are aware of the major changes. From Little Jacks to Winnacunnet Road – there is nothing that says anything about places for handicapped people to park free of charge.

Front spots of the Town parking lot goes first, so handicapped persons have to park in the rear and walk further. No other lots take them without paying.

Mr. Nyhan stated a parking study (later in meeting) will give a lot more information. Mr. Nyhan is asking Mr. Housman to check out the rates and parking issues and to get back to the Commission. Mr. Nyhan will get information back to Mr. DeMarco.

### **3. Review & approval of March Minutes**

**MOTION** by Mr. Sawyer.

**SECOND** by Mr. Watson

**VOTE: 7 – 0 – 1 (Mr. Griffin; absent at said meeting) MOTION PASSED.**

### **Appointments –**

#### **1. Charles Preston – variety of Beach related issues**

Mr. Preston appeared and discussed State park plates and how many are familiar with them. Out of 80 people, one person knew of them. Plates have special recognition on the right hand side and they would pay \$85 for those plates. The money goes to DRED for operations and maintenance. Next time people register their cars, people should obtain one. It gives free parking rights on pre and post-season dates and on weekdays. The plate may be a compromise to be considered.

At the end of March, he mentioned a petition on the E Street bandstand. Naming rights was discussed by HBAC. He thought it would cost about \$100,000.00 to \$1 Million. Getting the project through Legislature was discussed. He read political members involved in the project. Getting money through Pease Development Authority was read. He believes this is a worthy project. He thought of the E Street Band and its popularity in considering this name as well as that Band's hard work. Music is engrained into the Beach. DRED can name the bandstand and what it wants. Statues of musicians at the Beach was discussed along with the Bill Russell project. Getting community support was discussed. He asked people to get on line at [change.org](http://change.org) and click on [estreetbandstand](http://estreetbandstand) and sign in favor of the Petition.

Mr. Griffin mentioned Mr. D'Nelion (sp) at some point attending the Beach. People can Google Ann Hirsch as well and she would be interested in talking to the Board, per Mr. Preston.

#### **2. Rockingham Planning Commission – Parking Study Results**

Dave Walker from the Rockingham Planning Commission was introduced by Mr. Nyhan. Mr. Nyhan gave some history on the task of looking at doing a Hampton Beach parking study. RPC funded the project and valuating parking spaces throughout summer. A photographer and plane have been obtained. The RPC has facts for us and recommendations. Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Preston, Mr. Nyhan and Mr. McMahon met and they thought it would be good to come back and give the full presentation of what they found in the study and to discuss their findings.

Dave Walker Brian Groth (sp) both appeared. Brian did a slide show on the study. There is information available for anyone who would like to read this. He discussed seven parking areas during Saturday, Sunday and Wednesdays. State metered lots, Casino lots, church lot, Island Path, State Park lot. Saturday at 2:00 was the busiest time. Maintenance trucks blocking several spots was discussed. Mr. Rage stated they are probably leased spots – a hotel may lease 15 spots, so sometimes they block off their own spots so that no one else will take the spots.

Non-striped lots makes it hard to see how many spots are available for parking. Standard spacing was discussed versus using no lines. Signage was discussed for Town lots and private lots. Signage to direct visitors where to park would bring more revenue to the Town.

Apps for I-Phones that could indicate how many spots are available could be helpful as well and to keep track of available parking spaces.

Pedestrian protection was discussed & making it safer for families.

Parking supply down the Beach is meeting demand. At the busiest time, there were still 500 spots available. August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> is when this study was done. Mr. Nyhan stated the weather was perfect. The report will be in full color when completed; right now many copies are black and white.

Mr. Nyhan asked for most significant findings. Brian stated there is always space to park at the beach, but people don't know where to park. Signage and public education and outreach should happen by the Town. Improving pedestrian movement is also important per Brian. Mr. Nyhan asked for advice to the Town for Town lots. Brian stated private lots are more aggressive at getting people to come in per Brian. The Town is not capturing revenue. The Town needs signage and to promote parking. The Island Path lot is always empty per Mr. Rage. Mr. Rage stated it should be called the "Economy Lot". He believes that lot would be full. It's less money than the Ashworth lot. Some people want convenience. Mr. Griffin agrees and stated it would get money that the Town is losing for handicapped spaces.

Mr. Preston stated private lots are waving people in and it's creating demand for people to park. The entrance to Church Street parking is ugly and it could use a sign. It would increase Town income. When that is full, it could then be directed to Island Path lot.

Mr. McMahon stated this year there may be different utilization down the beach due to the restrooms. Brian stated doing a radius around restrooms is probably the way to go to do the study. Dyana Martin from the Hampton Rec Dept. and Vic DeMarco were invited to get some input to increase revenue to the Town. Brian stated each sign should look similar so that people will know that they are Town lots. It will show people that they are cheaper and within reach. Mr. Nyhan shared these thoughts with the Chamber and discussed a parking brochure with them.

Mr. Nyhan discussed State lots. Receiving revenue to help State Park was discussed. Getting people to pull in the State Park was discussed. Many won't walk down Ocean Boulevard to go to Hampton Beach. If there was a trolley system of some sort that could transport people from State lot to middle of Ocean Boulevard – it could increase number of parking at State Park. Mr. Nyhan asked Brian and Mike Housman about that idea. Mr. Housman said it would be \$15/day-weekdays and weekends, and no matter what the weather is. Mr. Sawyer stated the State Park is very family oriented. They take everything they need for the day. At the Beach, people are interested in getting take-food out, etc. North of the Seashell is almost an unknown. He stated lots not being known about was detrimental. When the Ashworth lot fills up, if someone could direct people to another parking lot, that would work out well. Mr. Sawyer thinks it's an informational issue.

Mike stated trolley systems can work. It's trickier and maybe a van would work better – with luggage racks for coolers, chairs, etc.

Mr. Watson said Loudon has a shuttling service on that same idea. Mr. Preston asked if there's another entrance/exit off Island Path parking lot.

Mr. Steffen, Town Planner, discussed the funding idea. With regard to signage and dressing up the parking lots, he asked if that work would qualify for the funds for the Town. It's very competitive. Mr. Watson asked if Congress will fund this. He discussed funding for many projects under one umbrella. Mr. Watson recommends some general strategies – how to make a TE project happen at Hampton Beach. It will be difficult. He loves pedestrian quarters idea— maybe shut down some of the streets and make pedestrian quarters. Using federal funds versus size of project needs to be decided upon.

Mr. Watson asked about providing maps. He feels Brian and Mike have 90 percent of mapping work done. Brian said that would be easy for them to do and they will add that to do. SmartPhones and the Apps – that idea is liked by Mr. Watson. Airports use this idea. He asked if other beach communities use the Apps. Mr. Griffin stated Ogunquit is good at posting signs for parking.

Mr. Nyhan discussed signage working with Rec for signage and mapping and asked if RPC could partner up with the Town and Brian stated “yes”. Mike will hold off on finalizing this until he/they hear from the HBAC.

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **1. HBAC update in 2012 State Park Stage Gala Opening**

Mr. Nyhan discussed the activities that are taking place and he handed out copies of the activities that will occur over the weekend. This was an active committee. There were 17 or 18 members of the community playing a role on the committee. This takes place June 1<sup>st</sup> weekend. HBAC is responsible for expenses of bills.

#### **2. HBAC review of Gala expenses and approval**

Mr. Moore attended and was introduced. He is the Gala's Treasurer. He is keeping track of the expenses. Tim Noonis from Unitil stepped up and took the Sponsorship Chairmanship. Tim reported that we have over \$60,000 that was raised in two months in terms of donations. Our larges was from Service Credit Union and donations were made from Unitil, Village District, Chamber, Newburyport Bank, and many more-- just to name a few. Mr. Nyhan recited many companies who donated. Whatever money is not spent will go into HBAC Master Fund to be used for other events and activities for Hampton Beach. Maybe some of that money could help with signage. We agreed with Treasurer from the State of New Hampshire to look at expenses and vote on expenses because in order for State to pay, Mr. Nyhan needs to sign. There are two lists; first page is all the vendors who submitted invoices. They total \$25,960.53. He read them quickly. There is a full day of things for families to do on Saturday. The Hush Band is the premiere band playing Saturday night. The second page has invoices that are still being pulled together. They won't be totalled until after the Gala. He wants approval by Motion (and he has individual invoices) to sign the invoices for payment.

**MOTION** by Mr. Preston to go ahead and sign the invoices.

**SECOND** by Mr. Sawyer.

Mr. Watson said this should be done as soon as possible. Mr. Nyhan stated there will need to be a special meeting for approval of invoices. It would occur during the first week in June so that the invoices can get out and paid quickly. Only five members need to attend.

**VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0**

**MOTION PASSED.**

3. Hampton Zoning Board's decision on the Hookhah Lounge

Mr. Nyhan discussed the Hookhah Lounge. He wants feedback from the Commission on how they stand on this. Should this Commission be an official "appealer" to the ZBA decision. He discussed press release from the Hampton Union. There is a motion for re-hearing to review Hookhah Lounge. Mr. Nyhan stated we're not an appealer, but he'd like the Commission to go on record and support the Hampton Beach Village Precinct in opposing the Hookhah Lounge from coming to Hampton Beach. The New Hampshire Beach should be a family-oriented Beach. It's not part of the Master Plan. This does not bring Hampton Beach into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Mr. Nyhan's opinion. People 18 to 23 years olds is the attraction.

Mr. Rage stated it does not fit in with Hampton Beach. He has received a lot of feedback on this and he hopes many people attend the appeals meeting and keep Hampton Beach moving into the right direction. There is a third party in the appeal. Many people have called Mr. Rage on this and he hopes those who call will attend that meeting.

**MOTION** to support Hampton Beach Village District in requesting the ZBA to reconsider its approval on the vote they made a month ago with regard to the issue.

**SECOND** by Mr. Rage.

Mr. Sawyer asked about the objections to the business. Mr. Rage stated it is a bar, not serving food, it is for smoking which should not be allowed. The cigar laws said no loose tobacco should be used and the Hookhah lounge is loose tobacco. What business does the Town govern in this regard. Mr. Rage said a Hookhah Lounge in Manchester was used as an example. The City of Manchester forced that Lounge to serve food. This is a bar without food, and they are smoking and he thinks it doesn't fit with Hampton. There will be peanuts and chips. Mr. Nyhan discussed the criteria. He looks at the betterment of the community. He stated there is one block down Hampton Beach that we would like to see spruced up. This Hookhah Lounge is near the weapons complex. If we want to improve Hampton Beach, the Town needs to draw a line. Mr. Nyhan thinks we should fight this as best we can.

**VOTE: 4 – 0 - 4 (ABSTAINED. Rick Griffin, Rich Sawyer, Mr. Preston and Mr. Watson).**

Mr. Preston knows the owner. Mr. Griffin can't vote against ZBA. Mr. Watson supports the Master Plan, but he can't get into vote that should be put before local citizens.

**MOTION VOTED DOWN**

Old Business

1. State Park Project Update (Housman)
  - a. DRED & Town MOA update

Mr. Housman met with Mr. Welch and Keith Noyes. He has some language and they are close to a final document.

There are four new mats taking people to beach. North End of the beach (main) was cleaned out. Benches have been refurbished. New bathhouse for next season will take place.

Travel Channel is going to be in Hampton this week. Episode on beaches around country will be here this Sunday. Interviewing beachgoers will take place.

2. Commissioner project updates
  - a. TCSP Application Update (Watson)

Mr. Watson discussed TCSP for funding to update components of Master Plan. Any day now a decision will be made in Washington. Meeting with DES was discussed to discuss drainage issues around Little Jacks. Wetland permit process was discussed. Work was to be done by April. There was a local issue with a landowner. There is a revised wetlands permit sent on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Approval should be in a few weeks. June 11, 2012, they may be a part of a Selectmen's meeting to discuss sidewalk maintenance, pedestrian walkways, etc.

3. Other Old Business

#### New Business

1. HBAC sub committee – review of the Sea Spray Project & Wally's Pub Renovations (parking and traffic flow review)

Mr. Rage stated the Sea Spray is a good addition to the Beach. Mr. Nyhan discussed decorate lighting to be out front. Building a walkway/sidewalk as part of the project was discussed. Sidewalks would not be affected by the walkway. There will be six retail stores and they will not be garage doors. Mr. Rage said it has a pitched roof-it's not boxy. A letter will be sent to the Planning Department in support of this project.

Mr. Nyhan discussed Wally's Pub. They were going in for parking and traffic flow. Mr. Nyhan did not see any problems with parking and traffic flow. Mr. Preston said he believes Al Fleury is trying to do a good job at cleaning it up. Mr. Rage said he doesn't need to provide parking at all being in the BS zone. It should be cleaner and more organized. Mr. Griffin is supportive of what he's done there and what he's doing for La Bec Rouge as well. Mr. Griffin said the lot should be well lit. Mr. Sawyer spoke with abutters and asked if abutters spoke at variance and it was postponed.

2. Meeting Schedule throughout the Summer, 2012

Mr. Nyhan recommends that our next official meeting with be in September; however, if anything is required to be dealt with sooner, he will check with everyone about that item. The only exception is that after the Gala there needs to be a gathering to review balance of the invoices. He asked if everyone wants off for the summer and everyone seems fine with that.

3. Other New Business

NONE.

#### **Adjourn**

**MOTION** by Mr. Preston.

**SECOND** by Mr. Sawyer.

**VOTE: 8 – 0 – 0**

**MOTION PASSED.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Laurie Olivier  
Secretary